

Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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Péter Szilágyi: we have to fill diaspora communities with energy

Speaking to Hungary's public channel M1, ministerial commissioner responsible for the policy for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi said that "it is important to fill Hungarian diaspora communities with energy", and a new call for applications launched by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad serves this aim. Mr. Szilágyi recalled that most Hungarians who live in diaspora today left their homes in the 20th century for different reasons. For a long time they maintained their communities and institutions alone, without any help, and today the majority of these have become "aging communities." The aim of the Hungarian Government is to fill these communities with life through different forms of assistance: through the call for applications, Hungarian institutions in the diaspora can buy new equipment or can renovate their buildings. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that organizations and institutions can apply for financial support between HUF 500,000 and 2.5 million in the form of non-refundable grants. Mr. Szilágyi emphasized that before 2010 Hungary had no institutionalized relations with the diaspora, but today these relations are strong, and due to them there is a living relationship between the kin-state and Hungarian communities living abroad.



New medical and methodological center of the Szeklerland Ice Hockey Academy is inaugurated

On Friday the new medical and methodological center of the Szeklerland Ice Hockey Academy was inaugurated in Csíkkarcfalva/ Cârța. The building of the center was supported by HUF 640 million from the Hungarian Government. Among others, the building has a gym, artificial ice rink and every necessary modern equipment, including one of Romania's most modern medical centers. Speaking at the ceremony, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that ice hockey in Szeklerland is more than a game, competition or sport: it is part of Szekler identity, and it is a real community-building force. Mr. Potápi emphasized that when in 2016 it decided to establish the center, the Hungarian Government voted for the "Szekler future." The state secretary added that the Government will ensure further resources for the institution to buy necessary equipment. Mr. Potápi stressed that the "institution is special since it serves all three main goals of the policy for Hungarian communities abroad: the strengthening of identity, the supporting of families and prosperity in the homeland. The state secretary highlighted that after culture, sport is the most important identity-forming force, and that is why Hungary has ensured considerable financial assistance in recent years for the support of sports activities and sports centers abroad.



The RMDSZ launches new statistical data base about the Hungarian community in Transylvania

On Thursday the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) announced that it will launch a new statistical service named Erdélystat. The page will include statistical data about Transylvania and the Hungarian community in Romania. Acting president of the RMDSZ Bálint Porcsalmi said that Erdélystat.ro will publish official Romanian statistical data in the Hungarian language which are public but sometimes difficult to reach. Another aim of the website – which will be operated by the Iskola Alapítvány, financed by the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad – is to offer information about Transylvanian Hungarian institutions. Mr. Porcsalmi stressed that one of the main aims of the website is to provide information: not only data, but analyses as well. He stressed that it is important that the website is not only about the past but forecasts as well.



Further kindergartens are renovated from Hungarian Government's support in Slovakia

Last week a further three renovated kindergartens were inaugurated within the Hungarian Government's Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program. The three renovated institutions are located in Ladmóc, Nagykövesd and Kistárkány. The ceremonies were attended by ministerial commissioner István Grezsa, who said that this support is the expression of the kin-state bearing responsibility for Hungarians abroad. The aim of this is to help Hungarians prosper in their homeland and realize the nation's unification. Mr. Grezsa stressed that the preservation of identity is one of the most important elements of Hungarians' permanence in their homeland, and educational institutions play an important role in this process. He added that the first phase of education starts in kindergartens, and this is why the kin-state treats the support of nursery schools with special care.



2018 was a rich year for Hungarian families in Vojvodina

Within the framework of the "2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad", the Hungarian Government managed to reach 10,000 Hungarian children with its programs. As part of the program series, the Association of Large Families in Vojvodina also organized many programs during the year. The head of the association, Vilmos Krizsán, said that the thematic year was a huge help for them, since they could increase the number of events. Mr. Krizsán highlighted the World Marriage Day, events on Mothers' Day and international family day. Among the most important events he mentioned their international youth camp, which was attended by 52 participants between 9-14 July in Kishegyes. He added that this event grew into



a traditional event where young people between the ages of 13 and 17 spent several days.



Bungalows of the Kopács educational farm and youth center are completed

Within the framework of the “2014 – Year of Hungarian vocational education abroad”, the Forum of Hungarian Teachers in Croatia (HMDK) applied for the establishment of an educational farm and youth center. The HMDK prepared a plan and bought a property – due to financial support received from the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. The construction of the center is nearly complete. Office chief of the HMDK Krisztián Pálincás has said that “the building and the furnishing of the ten bungalows will soon be completed. According to the plans, different summer camps will be held in the buildings. We believe that such events are extremely important for young Hungarians living in dispersed Hungarian communities, and at the same time Hungarian children living in a Hungarian environment will also have an opportunity to take part in different exciting programs.”

